

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:
a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;
said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations, wherein each out-of-plane deformation has a longitudinal length less than a longitudinal length of the sanitary napkin, and no out-of-plane deformation has a longitudinal length equal to the longitudinal length of the sanitary napkin;
said facing layer being comprised of a fibrous nonwoven web;
said first region and said second region of said facing layer being disposed in the same said fibrous nonwoven web.

2. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet disposed between said topsheet and said absorbent core.

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3. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.

4. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 3, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.

5. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said first region is disposed centrally to said sanitary napkin along said longitudinal axis and said second region is disposed adjacent at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges and adjacent said first region of said facing layer.

6. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, further comprising a deep-embossed channel.

7. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 6, wherein said deep-embossed channel has a depth of at least 50% of said thickness of said sanitary napkin.

8. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:
a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a first region comprising a plurality of apertures and a second region comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations;

said facing layer being comprised of a fibrous nonwoven web;

said first region and said second region of said facing layer being disposed in the same said fibrous nonwoven web;

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining and circumscribing an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.

9. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet disposed between said topsheet and said absorbent core.
10. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said out-of-plane deformations are soft, resilient, rib-like elements.
11. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 10, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.
12. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein ~~said interior portion is completely bounded by said deep embossed channel, and~~ said first region is disposed substantially within said interior portion.
13. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal axis defining a longitudinal orientation and longitudinally-oriented side edges, a transverse axis orthogonal to said longitudinal axis, a thickness measured orthogonal to a

plane defined by said longitudinal axis and said transverse axis, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a facing layer joined to a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between said facing layer and said backsheet;

said facing layer comprising a plurality of out-of-plane deformations, said out-of-plane deformations being soft, resilient, rib-like elements; wherein the individual rib-like elements have a length, measured along their longitudinal orientation, of between 1% and 20% of the length of the sanitary napkin; and

said sanitary napkin comprising at least one deep-embossed channel defining and circumscribing an interior portion of said sanitary napkin.

14. (Previously Presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said facing layer comprises a topsheet and a secondary topsheet disposed between said topsheet and said absorbent core.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said rib-like elements are longitudinally-oriented.

- 17.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 1, wherein said facing layer comprises a fibrous nonwoven web, and wherein said plurality of apertures are formed in said fibrous nonwoven web.

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25. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 2, wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet are comprised of fibrous nonwoven webs.

26. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 25, wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet form a composite web material wherein said topsheet and said secondary topsheet are intermeshed.

27. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 8, wherein said first region is disposed centrally to said sanitary napkin along said longitudinal axis and said second region is disposed adjacent at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges and adjacent said first region of said sanitary napkin.

28. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said plurality of out-of-plane deformations are disposed along at least one of said longitudinally-oriented side edges of said sanitary napkin.

29. (Previously presented) A sanitary napkin according to Claim 13, wherein said deep-embossed channel has a depth of at least 50% of said thickness of said sanitary napkin.